Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

D. H. GILBERT

SEED GROWER

MONTICELLO, FLORIDA.

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Sec. 562, P. L. & R.

U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

Monticello, Florida

Permit No. 6

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
MAR 16 1939
U. S. Department of Agriculture

1939

To

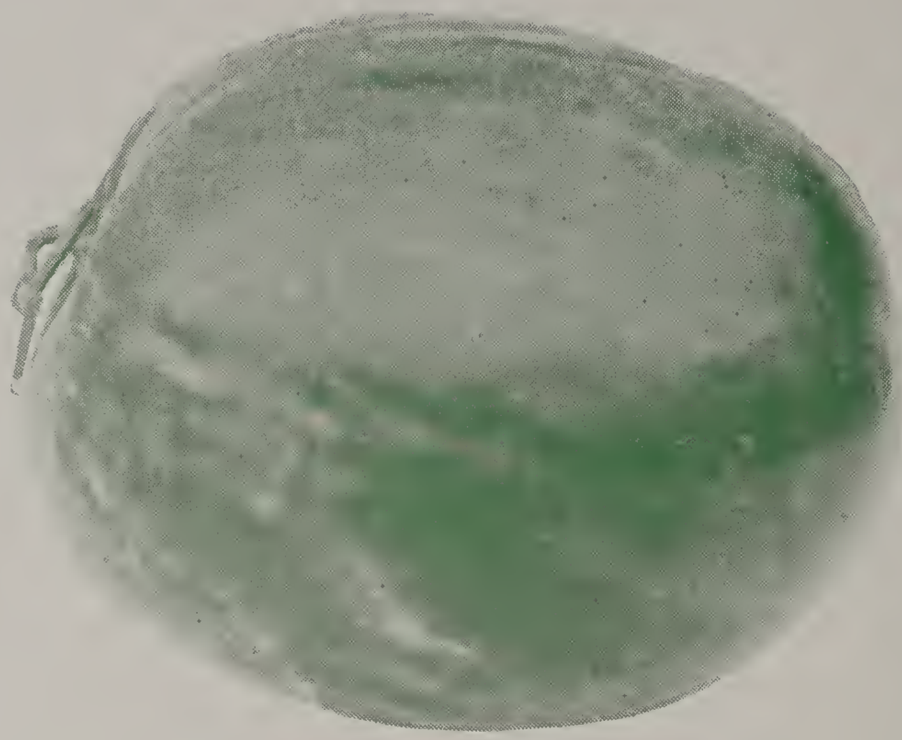
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
Fruit and Vegetable Crops and Diseases

GPO 8—3591

"The greatest satisfaction from planting Gilbert's Watermelon Seed is at Harvest Time."



Gilbert's Improved Stone Mountain

This Melon is very popular. It is one of the best among the round watermelons, and has attained the leadership among these sorts. It is very sweet, grows large and is almost round in shape. It is mingled light green in color, medium hard rind, the flesh is crimson red. Under normal conditions this variety will produce melons weighing over 50 pounds, and will command highest price on any market where quality is first consideration. Whether you like a round melon or not, when you have tasted the delicious flavor and sweetness of the melon you will forget the shape, the real value is on the inside. It is very prolific and very few seeds, which are white with dark rings.

SPECIAL NOTE:—There is a type of Stone Mountain melon that grows large dark green rind melons, many are creased or ridged, which has not been very satisfactory, many melons cut either hollow or white hearts.

GILBERT'S IMPROVED LIGHT GREEN RIND STONE MOUNTAIN
"CUTS RED"

Accept no substitute for GILBERT'S QUALITY Watermelon Seed, if your Dealer cannot supply order direct.

D. H. GILBERT, Seed Grower, Monticello, Florida

Gilbert's New Ribault Watermelon

(FORMERLY RADIO)

RIBAULT is long and thick in shape, measuring 24 to 30 inches long by 16 to 20 inches in diameter. The rind is dark green, indistinctly striped with mingled lighter green. The young melons will show stripes, but as they develop and ripen the stripes fade away leaving a dark glossy green color. The rind is medium thick and will stand rough usage during shipping; under ordinary handling the rind will not break. The meat is red and sweet and free from hard centers. It grows remarkably large, and is very prolific. It will make increased profits for the growers and at the same time meet with favor with the buyers, especially those demanding big sizes. You will make no mistake to plant this remarkable watermelon.

GOLDEN HONEY (IMPROVED)

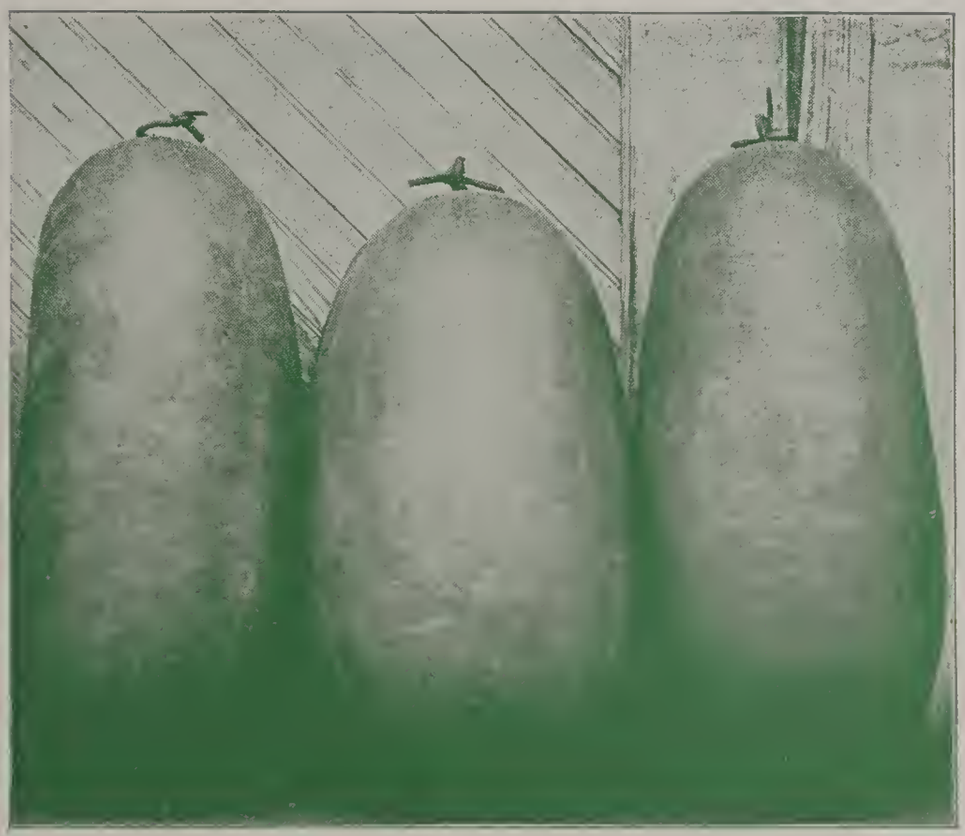
A golden flesh melon glistening amber shade of yellow, very tender and delicious flavor, round in form, rind light green with mottled stripes, entirely free from hard centers or stringy sections. Seeds brown.

A WATERMELON OF DISTINCTION

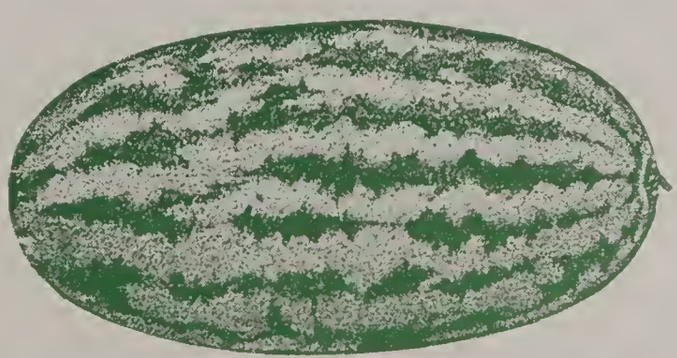
Early Kansas Watermelon

Introduced in 1934 for the first time a wonderful NEW WATERMELON, Early Kansas. Results from trials in many parts of the country were highly satisfactory, proving beyond a doubt that this is the largest of all early melons, ten days or more earlier to ripen than Watson. The Early Kansas has finest texture, sweet flavor and melting, bright red meat, solid to the rind. Nearly round in form, light green with broad bands of wavy stripes, growing 30 to 60 pound melons, with some specimens up to 80 pounds, seed red but dry to buff color and very few seed. It is a very robust grower, heavy deep rooting vines assure a heavy cropper, the productiveness is equal to or better than any other melon; under normal conditions 800 to 1,000 melons per acre weighing 30 pounds each is not surprising and every melon a good one, no white or stringy hearts, and a wonderful shipper. IT SHOULD MAKE A PROFIT TO A GROWER UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS OTHER VARIETIES MAY SHOW A LOSS. Certainly is worth a trial.

Improved "Irish Grey"



Irish Grey is a very valuable melon, the productiveness is wonderful, the eating quality is all that could be desired in a watermelon, the sparkling red flesh is very sweet and entirely free from hard centers or stringiness, yet the flesh is very firm and compact and will not break when sliced. The size is uniformly large, color of rind greenish grey, medium early, will keep in good condition for a long time after picking and is one of the best shippers.



Florida Favorite

A long melon with dark green skin striped with a lighter green; deep red flesh of excellent flavor, one of the best table sort; fairly good shipper. Seeds white.

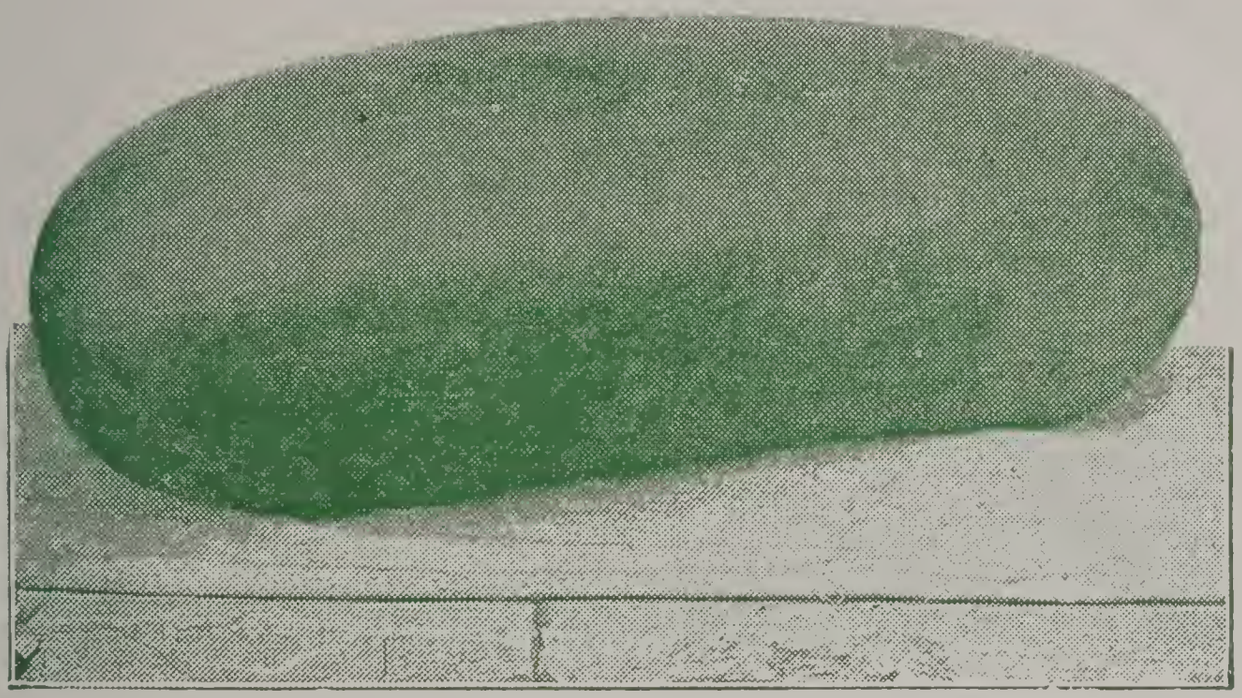
Blue Watson

This is a distinct variety of the Tom Watson. The rind is dark-blue-green. The seed are light brown to brown smeared, very similar to the old type Watson. The flesh is deep red and sweet. The rind is tough making it a good shipper. In general shape it is like the Watson, grows fully as large and every melon cuts red. When packed into cars make attractive appearance, dark glossy green rind, and should sell to good advantage. If you plan to plant a long variety of melon I know of no other that I could recommend better, especially for both local and shipping.

Gilbert's Improved Excel

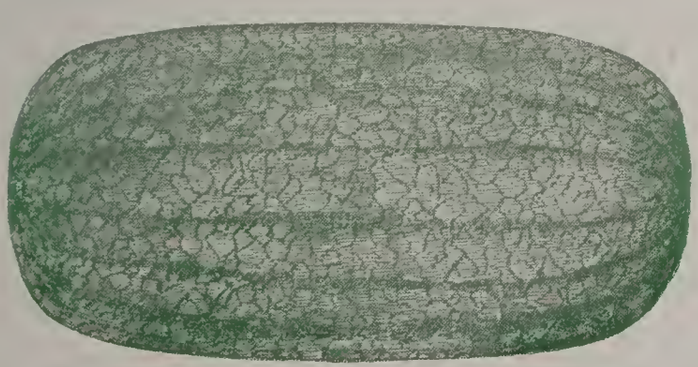
Improved Excel is the result of careful selection of the original Excel Watermelon, which has both white and black seeds. I was successful in breeding this strain to all white seed with black rings or tips. The melon grows larger and more uniform, with no round melons, making it a much more satisfactory melon. Can also supply Black-seed type Excel.

HALBERT HONEY



Often called the sweetest of all melons. In quality, Halbert's Honey is simply wonderful, and of a rich fruity flavor. Entirely devoid of fibrous substances, the sweet flesh melts away in the mouth like so much honey, even after the largest bite of "heart." This is surely a sweet melon, and its delicious crimson red flesh extends nearly to the skin, the rind being very thin and brittle. The melon is long in shape, and the dark green skin makes it very attractive. The hardy vines are remarkably prolific. It is quite early. The flesh is tender and luscious, extra sweet. The rind is not tough or thick enough for long distance shipping, but this is a prime favorite for local markets and home use. In good soil, will yield melons weighing 50 pounds.

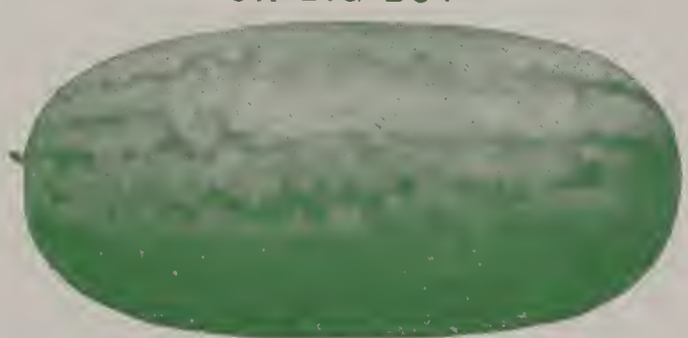
The Lee Grey is a black seeded grey rind watermelon, planted extensively in some commercial melon sections. Grows large uniform long grey melons of splendid quality, sometimes selling at a premium over other sorts. Flesh bright red and fine quality.



LEE GREY

Gilbert's Creation

OR BIG BOY



I have developed a remarkable watermelon in this new variety, which will attract the attention of commercial growers and produce firms that seek a big fine melon, and will be equally as pleasing to the local market growers. This variety certainly should appeal to growers catering to markets that will pay satisfactory prices for attractive products.

The rind is thin for such an enormous size melon, is extremely tough, and will stand ordinary handling and shipping with no bad effects; the meat is sparkling red with no white parts, of a delicious flavor. The melon is a rich green with mottled stripes.

The Hawkesbury Wilt Resistant Watermelon

I was convinced the first year I grew this grey rind shipping wilt resistant watermelon, (1937) that it had a permanent place among the best shipping sorts. Its light grey-green rind color gives a distinction to the variety. Aside from its possessiong the fine qualities necessary for a market sort, it also has fine eating qualities. The vines have a vigorous growth, prolific and grows melons weighing 30 pounds and larger, with specimens up to 50 pounds. The rind is tough and stands rough handling with no bad effects. Markets preferring a grey rind melon would cater to the Hawkesbury. Uniform shaped and highly resistant to fusarium wilt, flesh red, seeds black and no trace of hard or white hearts.

Early Market Queen

Early Market Queen is no doubt the earlist good quality watermelon, small in size but highly prolific, grows to 15 to 20 pounds. It is a very attractive melon, nearly round in form, with dark green rind indistinctly striped with darker green, flesh is red, solid and very sweet, rind very thin, seeds small dark and vary in color. This melon is also known as the 60 day melon.

CANTALOUPE

Hales Best # 936 is a later development of the original Hales Best. Extra early variety of remarkable flavor, distinctly sweet, firm flesh and small seed cavity. The salmon flesh is thick, fruits almost round with heavy netting.

CUCUMBER

Early Fortune Cucumber is used extensively for shipping. Dark green color which holds for some time after picking, stays plump. Other varieties: Stays Green, Imp. Long Green and Davis Perfect.

Wilt Resistant Stone Mountain Watermelon Number 5

The Stone Mountain wilt resistant No. 5 produced a very heavy crops of big fine splendid quality melons planted on highly infested soil, with no evidence of fusarium wilt. The shape and color of rind are the same as the Stone Mountain and fully as productive, this strain was introduced by the Iowa Experiment Station.

N LISTED HERE STOOD UP 100 PERCENT LAST SEASON

The Leesburg Wilt Resistant Watermelon

The Leesburg Wilt Resistant melon was propagated by Dr. M. N. Walker of the Florida Experiment Station at Leesburg, Florida. (Hence its name) It is not only resistant to fusarium wilt disease, which permits of its being grown on the same lands year after year also where melons were grown the year before or in recent years, but it also possesses the fine qualities for commercial shipping as well as a home garden melon. It makes a vigorous vine growth which assures productiveness, and because of the heavy deep rooting vines it will hold up under very adverse weather conditions. The rind is thin, hard and tough, which assures it standing up well under hard usage. The rind is of a dark glossy green, smooth and symmetrical. It does not sun-burn before it is over-ripe, melons retain their natural green color even after the leaves have shedded from the vines, and holds its good flavor for sometime after. The size range from 25 to 35 pounds, flesh deep pink-red, seeds white, and no trace of white hearts, even in the smallest sizes, sweet and tender. You will make no mistake to plant the Leesburg.

PLANTED ON HIGHLY DISEASE-INFESTED SOIL

Wilt Resistant Kleckley Sweet Watermelon No. 6

The old variety Kleckley Sweet was a standard home garden melon and very popular all over the country. Later the Improved Kleckley Sweet was introduced largely taking the place of the old strain of Kleckley Sweet or Monte Cristo, and is a better melon in every particular, harder rind, sweeter flesh, grows larger and more uniform.

Taking the Improved Kleckley Sweet watermelon as a basis the Iowa Experiment Station has developed a most wonderful strain of wilt resistant Kleckley Sweet, designated as No. 6. This melon is regular in shape, retaining the Kleckley quality, grows large uniform melons, solid dark green rind, thin and hard, rich bright red flesh, retaining all of the sweetness of the original Kleckley with the added important features of having fine shipping qualities and highly resistant to fusarium wilt, does not sun-burn before fully ripe, seeds white. Considering all of its merits it is a dependable sort for all purposes.

Crotalaria as a Soil Builder

As a soil improver, Crotalaria has given better results than other leguminous crops. The percentage and quality of nitrogen is as high or higher than in any other leguminous crop. The analysis of the nitrogen taken in by the Crotalaria plant is about the same as cowpeas or velvet beans, that is, a ton of dry material of Crotalaria will carry about 40 pounds of nitrogen. Crotalaria makes quite more growth than either of these other crops mentioned, when it is turned back to the soil would consequently add more nitrogen to the soil.

This high percentage of nitrogen coupled with the large yield of top growth has produced more than 200 pounds per acre of nitrogen in test carried on in Florida. The greater part of this nitrogen is fixed from the air by the nodule bacteria on the roots of the plant.

Turning under this high nitrogen crop not only increases the available nitrogen in the soil but adds to the humus content of the soil. When compared with other green manure crops turned under, Crotalaria produced 3,000 pounds more organic material per acre.

Decomposition goes on very rapidly if turned under in a succulent stage of growth, but when turned under in more mature growth stages, it decomposes more slowly and prevents the heavy loss of nitrogen and organic matter. The slower decomposition of the plant residue provides available nitrogen to the growing crop over a long period of time and in amounts favorable for the needs of the crop.

This increase of organic matter to the soil decreases the loss of fertilizer constituents, augments its water holding capacity, and lessens excessive aeration by cementing together the sandy soil particles.

Crotalaria is one of the most valuable leguminous crops, and the cost of seeding the ground is very small.

For seeding an acre in rows three feet apart requires 5 pounds, to sow broadcast requires 12 to 20 pounds.

WRITE FOR PRICE OF RECLEANED AND SCARIFIED SEED, CROTALARIA SPECTABILIS, STATE QUANTITY.

Florida Giant

"Thurmond Grey"

Thurmond Grey grows to large size, productive, and is a good shipping sort, sells to good advantage in the principal markets. The flesh being firm will not break when sliced, the color of rind is greenish grey. I consider the Thurmond Grey one of the best market sorts and recommend it for trial.

Also Called Cannon Ball and Clara Lee

The vines are of a very vigorous growth and heavy producers, the melons are nearly round in form, the skin is solid dark green, the flesh is red and firm, splendid quality and a good shipper. Grows large even size melons and if given special attention specimens have grown to weigh 100 pounds. Medium early and is considered one of the best all-purpose melons. Seeds black, and has been called by some growers, black seeded Stone Mountain, in form it resembles the Stone Mountain but has much darker green rind.

Nancy or Nancy Hanks

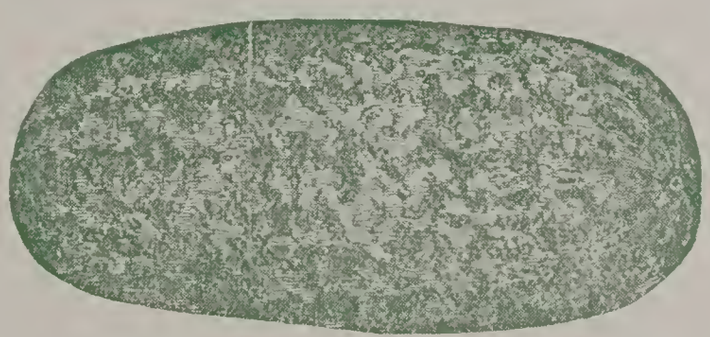
Rind dark green, slightly striped with lighter green, almost round in shape; bright red meat, long distance shippers; seeds white and is unusually productive. Grows large uniform melons of good quality.

WHITE DIXIE BELLE

Grow melons same form and size as Stone Mountain, differs that the rind is light grey, quality the same with seeds very similar, flesh bright red and sweet. White Dixie Bell has proven highly satisfactory as a shipper, at times selling at a premium. Very prolific, ripens same time as green rind Dixie Belle.

Reuter's Wondermelon

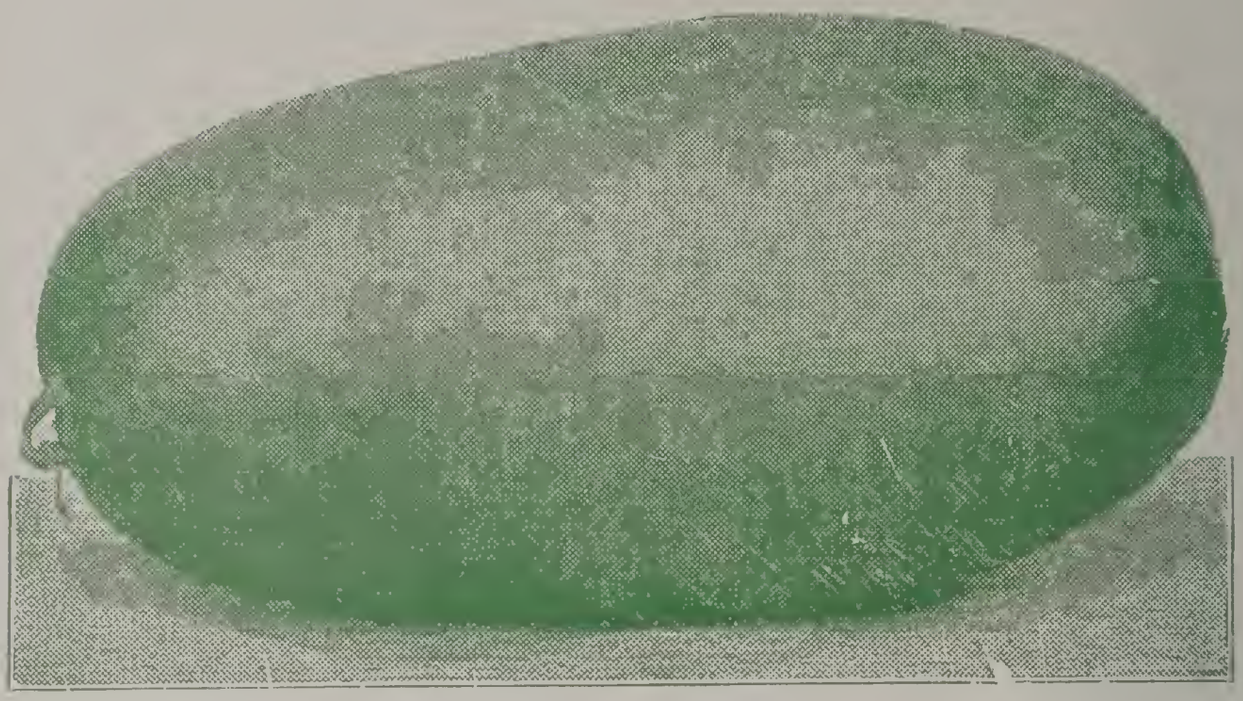
A variety which has become one of the favorites. No watermelon has received more praise in the short time of its existence, and justly so, for it is one of the finest flavored melons raised. It is also very productive, grows great quantities of big, fine, dark glossy green melons, fully as good eating quality as any melon. The rind is rather thin but reasonably tough to insure good carrying for short hauls, and any market that receives this melon will sell to good advantage. Grows long and thick, seeds white, flesh deep red and juicy sweet. I can unreservedly recommend this melon for the market gardeners and large truckers. It will please and satisfy those who like good melons.



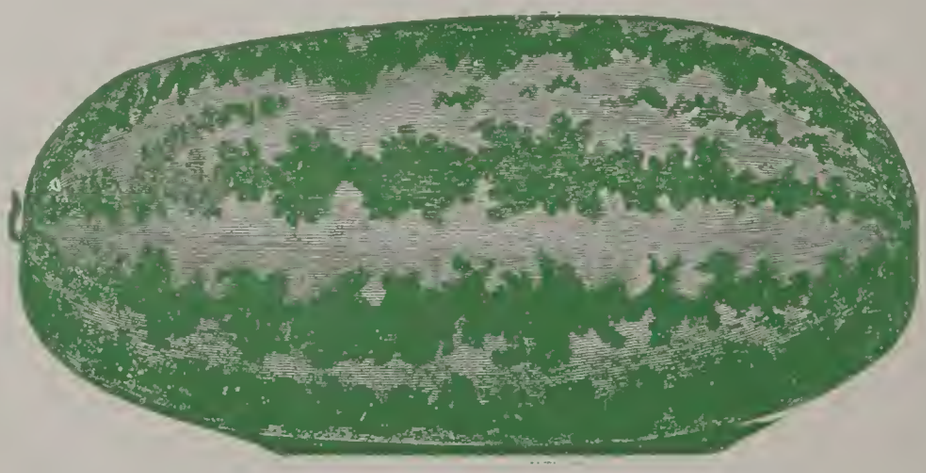
Smith, Cletex or Spotted Watson

This melon originated few years ago in Oklahoma, named "The Smith," two years later it was known in Texas as "Cletex," also called Spotted Watson, and is one of the best all purpose melons, producing melons about the same shape and size of the Watson, with indistinct stripes of a spotted character, a sort of marbled effect mixed with dark green color which gives it an odd and beautiful color. The flesh is red and sweet, rind tough which assures good shipping quality. Seeds same color of Watson.

"Improved Kleckley Sweet"



Years ago I set out to perfect a better strain of this favorite melon, for the reason it was showing some deterioration; melons were not all growing uniform in size. I rigidly selected and bred this type until I now have a much better melon than the old strain Kleckley Sweet. This improved strain grows uniformly large, retaining all of the fine qualities as a table melon, with an important added feature of having much harder rind. The seed are creamy white. The color of rind remains the same—dark bluish green.



IMPROVED RATTLESNAKE

Is an elongated gray with light green stripes, an excellent shipper, vines vigorous and productive. Flesh red and sweet, seeds white with black tips.

Gilbert's Cut-Red Watson

There has never been, so far, a watermelon introduced that became as popular as the Watson. It will be planted commercially for a long time yet, if the planter can be assured of high quality seed.

I was very successful in breeding a strain of this favorite melon which produced no hard white centers. Believe I have improved the Watson melon to the highest degree of perfection in Gilbert's Cut-Red Strain, grows big, green rind melons with red meat.

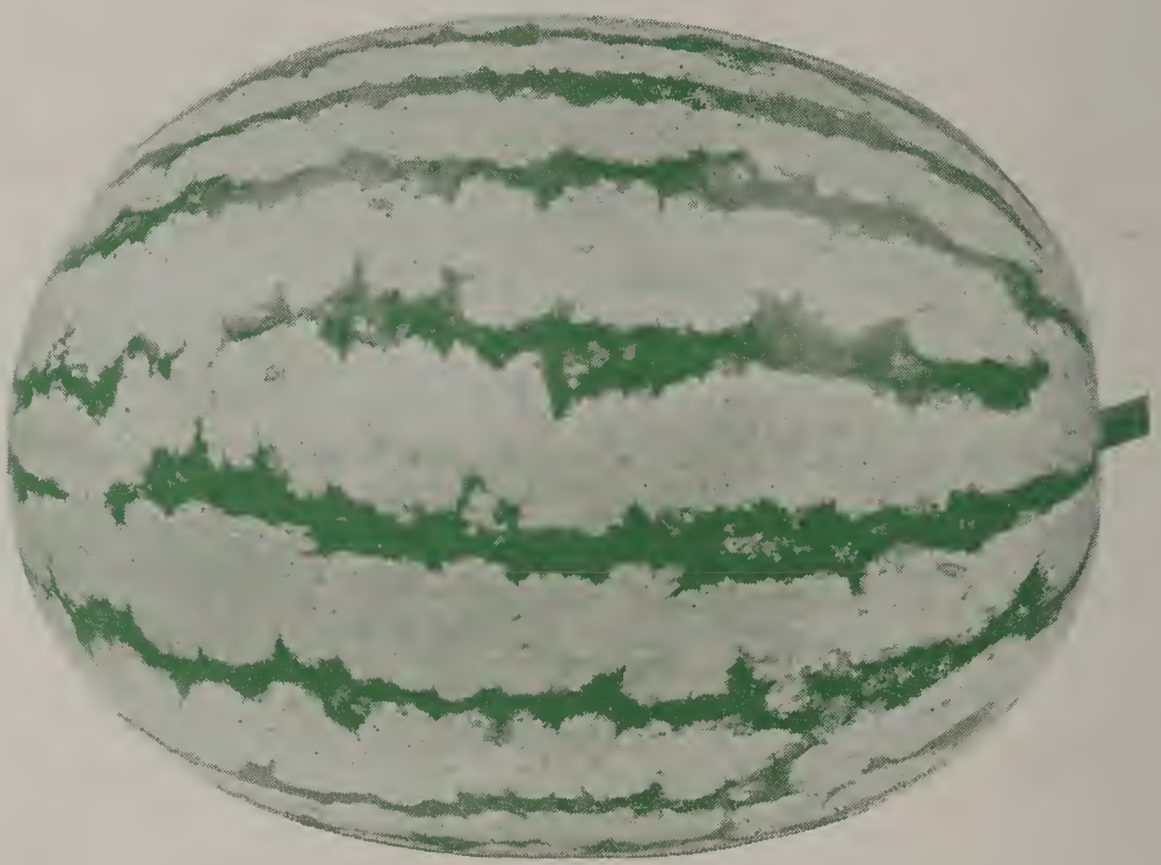
GREY JACKET OR ARNOLD

The Arnold or Grey Jacket, is of recent introduction, is long and thick. The rind is grey with small threads of very light green cross woven. The rind is tough and will stand hard usage, and is prolific, free from hard centers, flesh red and sweet. Creamy white seeds smeared with light brown. Grows large uniform melons and is very satisfactory.

SOUTHERN OR GEORGIA COLLARD

This variety is the old-time favorite. Stands all sorts of adverse conditions without injury and will make a good crop where the soil is too poor to grow cabbage. Hardy, standing unusual winters without serious injury.

Dixie Queen



DIXIE QUEEN, is known in some sections as Cuban Queen, but is confusing with the old variety by same name which has large black seed and rather course flesh. Dixie Queen is an enormous yielder, vines are of vigorous growth, melons in form are slightly oval, skin striped light and dark green, fruits are of good size, flesh bright red, crisp and splendid quality, good shipper, and sell to good advantage, seeds small white. One pound of Dixie Queen seed will plant as much ground as two pounds of Stone Mountain or other large type seed, medium early, and is a very satisfactory melon with all who have grown it for market. Probably the best round type market sort.

Accept no substitute for GILBERT'S QUALITY Watermelon Seed, if your Dealer cannot supply order direct.

D. H. GILBERT, Seed Grower, Monticello, Florida